

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 517

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the Honorable  
Thomas A. Greer, Jr. for his many contributions  
to society.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those individuals whose influence upon society, and upon our judicial system in particular, has been of import and consequence; and

WHEREAS, Retired Circuit Judge Thomas A. Greer, Jr. is one such individual who served as a guiding light within the halls of justice for nearly sixty years; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Sequatchie County High School in 1941, Judge Greer valiantly accepted the mantle of a soldier, serving in the Pacific Theater during World War II as a member of the United States Navy for three years; and

WHEREAS, after his discharge from military service, Judge Greer attended Cumberland Law School, graduating in 1947 with an LLB degree. He immediately opened his own practice in Dunlap; and

WHEREAS, after six short years of successful law practice, Thomas Greer was appointed to serve as County Judge of Sequatchie County; at the time, he was, at the age of thirty, the youngest person to ever hold the vaunted position of County Judge in the history of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during his outstanding tenure as County Judge, which lasted for seventeen years, Judge Greer also maintained an active law practice; and

WHEREAS, Judge Greer stepped down from this important position in 1970 in order to accept his appointment, made by Governor Buford Ellington, to serve as Circuit Judge of the

18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, later designated as the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District; he gained re-election to the position three times, serving from 1970 until his retirement in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Judge Greer was the very embodiment of justice during his terms on the bench, and his fair and well-reasoned dispensations gained him recognition throughout the State and beyond; and

WHEREAS, active in every aspect of the legal community, Judge Greer has served as an honored member of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, the Tennessee Judicial Council, the American Bar Association, and the Tennessee Bar Association, and he stood as the first President and co-founder of the Tennessee Trial Judges Conference; and

WHEREAS, Judge Greer is devoted to his community and has been involved with several community and civic organizations; he has devoted his valuable time and energies to Lions Club International, his local Veterans of Foreign Wars post, and the American Legion; served as President of the U.S. Highway 127 Association and the Sequatchie Valley Planning Development Association; and he has been a member in good standing of the Free and Accepted Masons Lodge since 1947 and is currently a 33<sup>o</sup> Scottish Rite Mason; and

WHEREAS, he is an active community volunteer and lends his unwavering support to the local high school football team, many academic programs, and the public library of Sequatchie County, which he helped establish during his term as County Judge; and

WHEREAS, a thoughtful and devout man, Judge Greer is a long-time member of First Baptist Church of Dunlap and has taught in the church's Sunday School program since 1947; and

WHEREAS, also deeply devoted to his family, Thomas Greer, Jr. is the proud father of Stephen T. Greer, an attorney in Dunlap, Dr. Patrick R. Greer, a surgeon in Winchester, and Dr. Michael S. Greer, a surgeon in Chattanooga, and the loving grandfather of ten grandchildren and three great-grandsons; and

WHEREAS, a loving and considerate husband, he has been married to Lota E. Greer for more than sixty years, and she has proven to be his most ardent fan and constant companion; and

WHEREAS, throughout his years as an attorney in Dunlap, as County Judge for Sequatchie County, and as the 18<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> District Circuit Judge, Judge Thomas Greer proved to be a citizen of the greatest ability and integrity and an asset to his community and the State of Tennessee, and he should be properly recognized for his many years of public service both on and off the bench; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Judge Thomas A. Greer, Jr. and commend his many years of unwavering service to his fellow Tennesseans, to his community, and to those who sought justice before his court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.